

III. REMARKS

1. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 42-45.

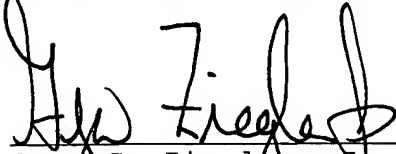
2. Claims 1-41 are not unpatentable over Hirai et al. ("Hirai") in view of Muramutsu et al. and Ortscheid (U.S. 6,647,248) et al. ("Ortscheid"), under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

Ortscheid is not prior art against the application because it is, and was at the time of the invention, commonly owned by the assignee of this application. Therefore, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103 (c), Ortscheid is not prior art for purposes of 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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10 April 2006

Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: April 10, 2006

Signature: Mayken Baye
Person Making Deposit